4/23/72

Dear JP,

This is not rush but it may be important.

Earl Caldwell of the NYTimes was in the Lorraine Motel at the time of the killing of King. He had trouble getting a line but did reach his NY desk intime for the 4/5/ editions. The story may have changed radically from edition to edition. I now have what I would presume is the version in the first edition. I'd like copies of the story as it appeared in any identifiable ~~xxxxx~~ editions. I find great significance in it that everyone missed, including Caldwell, and my interpretation of Matt's Kyles inyerview is precisely accurate. It also is clear in HOT identifying the car as a Mustang and the man who dropped the package as "young", which is hardly 40, eh?

Their wire story was different. I have it as it appeared in the SF Chron 4/5.

Waldron appeared in next day's stories, not Caldwell, from what I can see and know.

Js, It is as I suspected, early and accurate reporting was soon twisted, I guess under official guidance of which the reporters were probably unaware. Of the stories you sent, that I'll return slow mail, as JW suggested, I have copied those of immedate interest. However, my machine is out of whack, so I have to run the paper through the second time, which results in a non-permanent copy. Almost each story has a value not immediately apparent. If the possibility presents itself for you to make copies for which you di not have to pay, I'd appreciate the, except for those listed below, which have no value for me:

Chron 6, on Autopsy and Horror in Europe
Tribune 6, Emotions Tear and Witnesses Paint
Ex and Chron 7 Police silent.

Even some of the early caption may later have value. The first location was not the bathroom and the first statements definitely are not only not but contrary to. Which makes the silence of the blacks more or less comprehensible: more from fear, less because they lack innocence. They are as explicit as I said Kyles was.

If the sending of Waldron is not exceptional, the silence of Caldwell is. It would be uncommon, not common, for a paper like the Times to have a single man there. Caldwell was the only, repeat, only reporter at the motel, was the first to speak to the only real witnesses, and they off him? Hard to explain satisfactorily. More than ever, I'd like to be in touch with him. He reported what I expected to find and what is not in his story may have other values. ...Strikes me Caldwell's blackness suddenly became a Times asset.

And I sure a s hell was right to use the word "explode". Until it got stifled, the coroner did!

Tnx, HW